

GREENVILLE SOUTHWEST BYPASS STUDY (NC 11 – US 264 BUSINESS IMPROVEMENTS)

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT R-2250
STATE PROJECT NO. 8.1221401

North Carolina Department of Transportation **NEWSLETTER**

April 2002

Issue No. 5



This newsletter is the fifth in a series of newsletters published by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to inform the public about the Greenville Southwest Bypass Study. A Citizens Informational Workshop was held on October 25, 2001 to present the preliminary alternates to the public for comment. This newsletter is to inform the public which alternates were selected for detailed study.



WEB SITE

Please visit the NCDOT project web site for current project information. Project maps, copies of this newsletter, and comment sheets are available on the web site.

www.ncdot.org/projects/greenville/

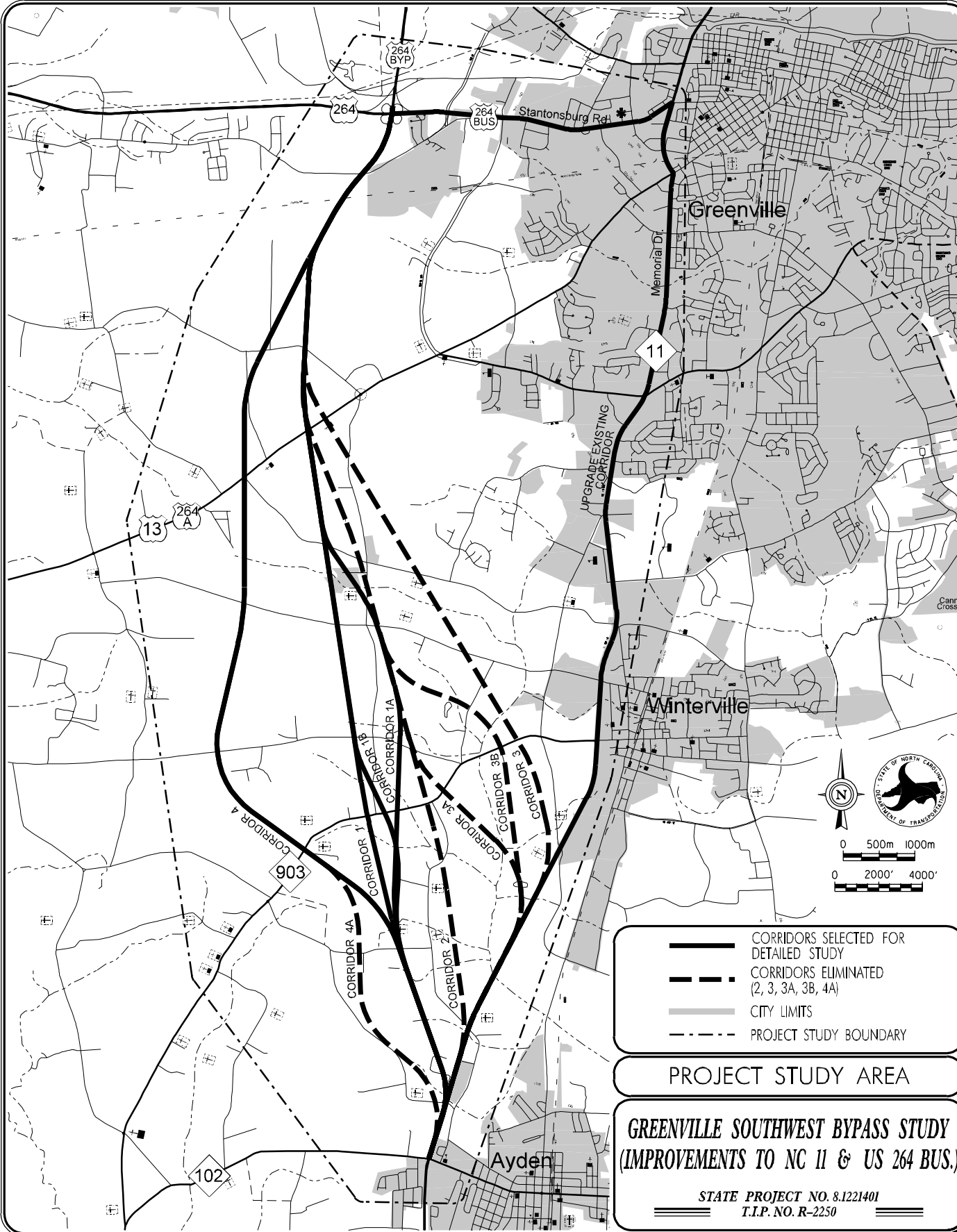
FIVE ALTERNATES SELECTED FOR DETAILED STUDY

Five alternates were selected for detailed study by local, state, and federal agencies. These alternates included the Upgrade Existing Alternative and Corridors 1, 1A, 1B, and 4. These alternates are shown on the map included in this newsletter.

The Upgrade Existing Alternate was retained to minimize impacts to wetlands and stream crossings. This alternate consists of the addition of two lanes in each direction on Memorial Drive from NC 102 to Stantonsburg Road and one lane in each direction on Stantonsburg Road from Memorial Drive to US 264 Bypass.

Corridor 1 was retained because of its proximity to Frog Level Road and its fewer relocations and impacts to wetlands. Corridors 1A and 1B follow the same basic corridor as Corridor 1 in the vicinity of the Charles McLawhorn Property. These corridors were developed to avoid impacting this historic property. Corridor 4 was retained because of its western location, which enables it to avoid the Charles McLawhorn Property and the new developments proposed and under construction in the project area.

A copy of the corridor map that was displayed at the October 25, 2001 Citizens Informational Workshop is available at the NCDOT Division Office, 105 Pactolus Hwy (NC 33) Greenville, NC 27835. The Division Office phone number is (252) 830-3490.



PROJECT STUDY AREA

**GREENVILLE SOUTHWEST BYPASS STUDY
(IMPROVEMENTS TO NC 11 & US 264 BUS.)**

STATE PROJECT NO. 8.1221401
T.I.P. NO. R-2250

MERGER TEAM MEETS TO SELECT ALTERNATIVES

The Project Merger Team met on February 20, 2002 to select detail study alternatives from among the ten preliminary corridors (1, 1A, 1B, 2, 3, 3A, 3B, 4, 4A, and Upgrade Existing) that were shown at the October 25, 2001 Citizens Informational Workshop. This selection coincides with Concurrence Point 2 of the Section 404/NEPA Merger Process.

The Merger Team consists of the Federal Highway Administration, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Environmental Protection Agency, North Carolina Department of Transportation, North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (Division of Water Quality and Wildlife Resources Commission), North Carolina Division of Cultural Resources, and the Greenville Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.

The Merger Team evaluated the alternatives based on their potential to impact both the human and natural environments and on comments received during the Citizens Informational Workshop and Local Officials meeting. Examples of the environmental impacts evaluated included relocations, commercial developments, and impacts to wetlands, streams, and historic properties.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The following schedule incorporates the agency coordination procedures and shows the time line for completing the project.

- ☒ Obtain Concurrence Point 1 -----February 2001
- ☒ Hold Public Meeting-----October 2001
- ☒ Obtain Concurrence Point 2 -----February 2002
- Complete Draft
Environmental Document-----Winter 2003
- Hold Public Hearing-----Spring 2003
- Obtain Concurrence Point 3 -----Summer 2003
- Obtain Concurrence Point 4 -----Winter 2004
- Complete Final
Environmental Document-----Fall 2004
- Purchase Right of Way-----Fall 2006
- Construction -----After 2008

FIVE ALTERNATES ELIMINATED

Five of the ten preliminary corridors (2, 3, 3A, 3B, and 4A) were eliminated from further consideration by the Merger Team. Corridor 2 was eliminated because it would impact wetlands associated with Swift Creek. Corridor 3 was eliminated because it would impact a newly constructed high school, a planned elementary school, and an historic property. Corridors 3A and 3B were eliminated because they both would impact wetlands and bottomland hardwoods along Swift Creek. Corridor 4A was eliminated because it would impact commercial developments in Ayden.



DETAILED STUDIES FOR PROJECT ALTERNATES

The Upgrade Existing Alternative and Corridors 1, 1A, 1B, and 4 will undergo detailed studies to determine which one is the "Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative" (Concurrence Point 3 of the Section 404/NEPA Merger Process).

The detailed studies include the evaluation of each alternative's potential effect on cultural resources, the human environment, and the natural environment. Evaluation of the human environment includes assessment of population and growth characteristics, labor force/employment, income ranges, housing characteristics, visual characteristics, farmland, air quality, noise, land use planning, community facilities and services, and transportation facilities. Cultural resources evaluation determines the impacts on historic or prehistoric archaeological sites or historic architectural resources. Evaluation of the natural environment includes assessment of biotic resources, physical resources (soils, water, agricultural districts), water quality, wetlands, and rare and protected species.

During the next year, environmental professionals will conduct field studies on each of the alternatives selected for detailed study. Property owners are requested to allow these individuals access to the land contained in the various corridors. Field studies will be conducted for wetlands, streams, natural communities, protected species, noise, archaeology, historic resources, and hazardous materials. Your cooperation with these studies will aid in completing the evaluation of environmental impacts associated with the study corridors.



Greenville Southwest Bypass Study
(Improvements to NC 11 and US 264 Business)
P.O. Box 30923
Raleigh, NC 27622

NEXT STEP FOR THE PROJECT



Complete Draft Environmental Document

Detailed human and natural environmental studies will be conducted during the next six to eight months. These studies will be essential in the evaluation of alternatives and the selection of a preferred alternative. The findings from the detailed study will be included in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement, which will be available for citizens and local officials prior to the public hearing. The public hearing will provide citizens the opportunity to comment on study findings and voice their support for a preferred alternative.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call: 1-800-554-7849



A toll free number for the public to discuss issues and concerns about the Greenville Southwest Bypass Study (Improvements to NC 11 and US 264 Business) is available during normal business hours.

Or Write:



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P.O. Box 30923
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